

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-33 – (canceled)

34. (currently amended): A method of making reclosable packages, said method comprising the steps of:

feeding a supply of package film in a package forming direction;

folding said package film about a bottom fold to form opposing package walls, said opposing package walls advancing in said package forming direction;

feeding a supply of interlocked reclosable zipper between said opposing package walls, said interlocked reclosable zipper including two interlocking profiles with flanges extending therefrom and mounted sliders, each of said mounted sliders being adapted to open and close said reclosable zipper as said slider is moved along said reclosable zipper in opening and closing directions, respectively;

sealing a first portion of said flanges ~~said reclosable zipper~~ to said opposing package walls adjacent to said bottom fold with a second portion of said flanges free of sealing to said opposing package walls; and

cross-sealing said folded film at package-width intervals to form a chain of packages, each of said packages having a reclosable zipper and a slider.

35. (previously presented): The method of Claim 34 further including the step of forming at least one line of weakness in said package film.

36. (previously presented): The method of Claim 35 wherein said at least one line of weakness is formed between where said zipper is sealed to said opposing package walls.

37. (previously presented): The method of Claim 35 wherein said at least one line of weakness is formed proximate to said bottom fold.

38. (previously presented): The method of Claim 35 wherein said step of forming said at least one line of weakness is substantially simultaneous with said step of folding said package film.

39. (previously presented): The method of Claim 34 further including the step of forming one line of weakness on each of said opposing package walls between said bottom fold and where said zipper is sealed to respective said opposing package walls.

40. (previously presented): The method of Claim 34 wherein said sliders are inserted on to said reclosable zipper prior to said reclosable zipper being fed between said opposing package walls.

41. (previously presented): The method of Claim 34 further including the step of filling said reclosable package with product at an end opposite to said bottom fold.

42. (previously presented): The method of Claim 41 further including the step of sealing said reclosable package at said opposite end after said step of filling.

43. (previously presented): The method of Claim 34 wherein said reclosable zipper includes interlocking profiles and wherein said method further includes the step of providing a peel seal between said interlocking profiles of said interlocked reclosable zipper.

44. (previously presented): The method of Claim 34 further including the step of cutting each of said packages from said chain of packages.

45. (previously presented): The method of Claim 34 wherein ends of said reclosable zipper of each package are cross-sealed.

46. (previously presented): The method of Claim 34 wherein said reclosable zipper supply is stomped at package-width intervals.